

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3667

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 15965

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFORN, PINT, UR, US

SUBJECT: JEWISH ACTIVISTS ON MFN DEVELOPMENTS

1. AFTER SABBATH SERVICES AT MOSCOW CENTRAL SYNAGOGUE OCTOBER 19 EMBOFF WAS BESEIGED WITH REQUESTS FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MFN "COMPROMISE" FROM NUMBER OF LEADING SOVIET JEWISH ACTIVISTS, INTER ALIA PROFESSORS ALEKSANDR LERNER, VLADIMIR SLEPAK, VITALIY RUBIN AND VIKTOR POLSKIY. NONE HAD YET HEARD DETAILED REPORTS ON CONGRESS-EXECUTIVE BRANCH EXCHANGE OF LETTERS.

2. JEWISH ACTIVISTS SEEMED MORE INTERESTED IN PROVISIONS RELATING TO HARASSMENT AND SECURITY CASES THAN IN YEARLY NUMBERS MENTIONED BY SENATOR JACKSON AS "BENCHMARK." SEVERAL WONDERED ABOUT SOVIET COMPLIANCE AND WANTED TO KNOW WHAT ROLE EMBASSY WOULD PLAY IN VERIFICATION AND REPORTING. LERNER, WHO IS POTENTIALLY MOST DIFFICULT CASE FOR SOVIETS BECAUSE OF HIS PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IN CYBERNETICS, WAS OTIMISTIC, SAYING HE TRUSTED HIS "AMERICAN FRIENDS LIKE KENNEDY AND JACKSON" TO KEEP THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES HONEST. POLSKIY MENTIONED THAT HE HAD ALREADY BENFITTED FROM COMPROMISE SINCE HE WAS LET OFF WITH 100 RUBLE FINE IN WELL-PUBLICIZED "ACCIDENT" CASE. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT CASE WOULD NOT BE
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PUSHED FURTHER BY AUTHORITIES. RUBIN, WHO HAS BEEN IN

HIDING FOR FEAR OF BEING IMPRISONED FOR "PARASITISM"
HAS MOVED BACK TO HIS OLD APARTMENT AND SAID HE FELT IT
WOULD NOW BE UNLIKELY THAT HE WOULD BE FURTHER HARASSED.

3. COMMENT: MOOD OF JEWISH ACTIVISTS WAS GENERALLY ONE
OF CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM, AND THEY WILL PROBABLY BE CONTENT
TO WAIT FOR A TIME BEFORE PROBING FOR CHANGES IN OFFICIAL
ATTITUDES TOWARD THEIR EMIGRATION APPLICATIONS. WHEN
KNOWLEDGE OF THE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BECOMES MORE
WIDESPREAD, WE CAN EXPECT THAT THEY WILL PUSH FOR A MORE
DIRECT U.S. GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN THEIR CASES AND
WILL REPORT TO US AND WESTERN PRESS ANYTHING THEY CONSIDER
TO BE HARASSMENT BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES.
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